

Agreement builds on the strong commitments Jordan made in acceding to the WTO. The provisions of the FTA incorporate the most up-to-date international standards for copyright protection, as well as protection for confidential test data for pharmaceuticals and agricultural chemicals and stepped-up commitments on enforcement. Among other things, Jordan has undertaken to ratify and implement the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) Copyright Treaty and WIPO Performance and Phonograms Treaty within 2 years.

The FTA also includes, for the first time ever in the text of a trade agreement, a set of substantive provisions on electronic commerce. Both countries agreed to seek to avoid imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions, imposing unnecessary barriers to market access for digitized products, and impeding the ability to deliver services through electronic means. These provisions also tie in with commitments in the services area that, taken together, aim at encouraging investment in new technologies and stimulating the innovative uses of

networks to deliver products and services.

The FTA joins free trade and open markets with civic responsibilities. In this Agreement, the United States and Jordan affirm the importance of not relaxing labor or environmental laws in order to increase trade. It is important to note that the FTA does not require either country to adopt any new laws in these areas, but rather includes commitments that each country enforce its own labor and environmental laws.

The U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement will help advance the long-term U.S. objective of fostering greater Middle East regional economic integration in support of the establishment of a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace, while providing greater market access for U.S. goods, services, and investment. I urge the prompt and favorable consideration of this legislation.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *January 6, 2001.*

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:48 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 1, 107th Congress, the Speaker appoints as tellers on the part of the House to count the electoral votes: Mr. THOMAS of California and Mr. FATTAH of Pennsylvania.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 2, 107th Congress, the Chair reappoints as members of the joint committee to make the necessary arrangements for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States on the 20th day of January 2001, the following Members of the House: Mr. HASTERT of Illinois, Mr. ARMEY of Texas, and Mr. GEPHARDT of Missouri.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
JANUARY 8, 2001

At the conclusion of the joint session of the two Houses, and in accordance with the order previously entered, the Senate adjourned until Monday, January 8, 2001, at 12 noon.